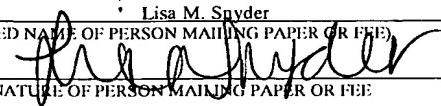


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of)
Gunnar Hultquist et al.)
on A NUCLEAR FUEL ROD)
Serial No.: National Stage Entry of)
Int'l Appln. No. : PCT/SE2003/001902)
International Filing Date: 5 December 2003)
Filed: Simultaneously herewith) (Docket No. 1026-0002WOUS)

Middletown, Connecticut, June 8, 2005

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows with reference to the Substitute Specification of the International Application, filed simultaneously herewith: